RESCUE WORK AT PRINCETON.

A Fellow Who Couldn't Keep Out of Jail Develops Into a Hero Under Pressure.

The remains of Robert Maul, one of the Princeton mine victims, were accompanied to Belleville by L. W. Gudgel, W. H. Pingree, P. M. Kenney, N. S. Selby, D. Hutchinson and J.C. Gorman, members of Ascalon Lodge, Knights of Pythias, of Princeton, to which Maule belonged.

They told a story of the rescue work done by John Mole of Belleville, which makes him a hero of the calamity.

The cages were rendered useless by the explosion, but as soon as possible huge iron buckets were made ready for use as elevators. When volunteers were called for Mole was the first to respond. Accompanied by Albert Sancho, also of Belleville, he stepped into the iron bucket and it was slowly lowered into the hole, out of which foul smoke was still issuing.

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The shaft is 450 feet deep. The cage was lodged near the bottom, but there was a trap door in the top, provided for such emergencies, and lifting this Mole, followed by Sancho, dropped through.

At the base of the shaft there is a "sump," a depression artificially created, into which water from other parts of the mine drains. Into the water they dropped up to their necks and began the search for bodies. One after another the mutilated and dismembered corpses were found and placed in the bucket to be drawn to the surface and greeted by the agonized cries of wives made widows and children made orphans.

The work of rescue began at 4 in the afternoon. Mole stayed in the awful hole until 10 o'clock the next day, and part of the time he was alone, dredging for bodies with his grappling hook and penetrating as far as the foul atmosphere would let him in search of dead or injured.

In a last search for the missing Poneylight he went a little too far from the shaft and was almost overcome. He managed, however, to return to the shaft and climbed into the bucket.

It was drawn to the surface. Mole climbed out, staggered into the engine room and sank down exhausted.

Mole was known in Belleville as an ugly and quarrelsome man, especially when under the influence of drink. He was shot by Angus Young in a fight at Ogle Station two years ago. He was also in fall for a long time for wife abandonment.

The funeral of Robert Maule took place Monday under the auspices of Garfield Lodge, K. of P. The religious services were conducted by Rev. J. G. Klene of the Presbyterian Church.

The funeral of John G. Ernest took place at 2 p. m. Tuesday from the residence of his adopted parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Mowe, to Walnut Hill Cemetery.

The remains of John Holmes arrived in Belleville Monday evening. Mrs. Holmes had intended to bury them at Princeton, but changed her mind.

Robert Maule is the third son of John Maule to die a violent death.

1896 Oswald mine explosion NEWS3

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